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WTOP-TV (Washington).

5 June 1960

REAGAN'S FOREIGN POLICY

Face the Nation at 5:00 p.m. Saturday (Washington) on the CBS-TV network.

CHARLES H. PERCY, ASSISTANT CHAIRMAN OF THE REPUBLICAN NATIONAL CONVENTION'S COMMITTEE ON RESOLUTIONS, WAS GUEST ON NBC-TV'S THE TONIGHT SHOW.

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QUESTION: "On the matter of international affairs, in '52, of course, the cry was liberation, 'Unleash Chiang Kai-Shek', and nothing ever happened to any of those. Correct?"

(PAUSE--NO ANSWER BY MR. PERCY)

QUESTION: "Now, going to the future, how would you add---or what would your plank say, for instance, in relation to the U-2 incident, or what our position should be in the future relative to espionage against the Soviet Union?"

PERCY: "I think at this time, Mr. Madigan, I have to say that the Platform Committee is a 100-member committee--"

QUESTION: "Well, what are your personal views?"

PERCY: "...and I would tend to think that we would probably not deal in the details of one single incident. I think, however, that we would be negligent if we didn't reassess what our posture should be in the world, domestically and abroad, and in this regard, say clearly and frankly where we stand with respect to the aggressive elements that we feel are being imposed on us."

QUESTION: "How do you personally feel about the agreement by the President: now to cease any flights—overflights of this nature?"

PERCY: "...sorry we're in that position, because I think the testimony that has been brought out by the Senate committee that's been conducting hearings has shown rather clearly that these flights were essential and necessary, and were carried on with the best interests of this country, and for our best interests, and we gained valuable information that perhaps we have no other way of gaining now. I think, however, that technology will catch up with us very quickly, that the named flight will be obsolete in six months to a year."

QUESTION: "You were co-chairman of the conference on world tensions about a month ago at which Adlai Stevenson used that forum to say that the administration had mishandled the U-2. Do you agree with that? You were chairman of that meeting, you sat there as he said it."

PERCY: "Yes; I sat there. I was sorry that he'd used that forum, which was a national conference, for partisan purpose. He was the only who was judge of that. I think we'd all fight for the right of any person in this country to say what he thinks is in the country's best interest. I (disagreed?) with him very strongly."

QUESTION: "You wouldn't accuse him of appeasement, as some of your party fellows have done?"

PERCY: "I mightly would not."